

**For immediate release**

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## **Four Businesses to Benefit from Green Incentives**

Last fall, Mayor Michael B. Coleman announced the Green Columbus Fund incentive program for businesses and non-profits as part of the mayor's Get Green Columbus initiative. Mayor Coleman has forwarded legislation to City Council for four businesses to receive grants for LEED certified green buildings and for brownfield assessment and redevelopment.

**"Through the Green Columbus Fund we will create jobs while protecting our environment," said Mayor Coleman. "The businesses taking advantage of this program are helping us build a stronger economy and a greener city."**

Council will consider legislation for two LEED and for two brownfield projects:

- Columbus will provide a grant of \$15,840 to Methodist ElderCare Services for the sustainable construction of the Wesley Glen Wellness Center at 5155 North High Street. The performance-based grant would be a reimbursement for the LEED-NC certification fee and potentially provide incentives up to triple the certification fee.
- Heart of Ohio Family Health Centers plans to replace Capital Park Family Health Center with a new facility at 2635 Innis Road and the city will enter into a grant agreement for \$15,840. Based on performance, they will be reimbursed for the LEED-NC certification fee and potentially provide incentives up to triple the certification fee.
- The city will enter into an agreement for expenditures of up to \$150,000 with the Franklinton Development Association for a Phase II Environmental Assessment of a potential Brownfield site at 421-435 West State Street.
- The city will provide a grant of up to \$54,000 for U & I Properties, LLC, for Phase I and Phase II Environmental Assessments for a potential Brownfield site at 154-164 South Yale Avenue. The grant will also be used for limited site acquisition assistance.

The \$1 million Green Columbus Fund provides grants to acquire contaminated brownfield sites and complete environmental assessments. It also provides reimbursements for the fee paid to certify a building with the United States Green Building Council for LEED status, the nationally accepted benchmark for evaluating sustainable buildings.

**"Columbus is helping businesses prove they can be successful in the marketplace while improving the environment," said Zachary M. Klein, chair of the Development Committee. "We are removing an obstacle to economic development, helping to create growth and jobs that will benefit all of the city."**

Funds for the Brownfield component of the program are capped at \$200,000 per project. Under the LEED certification component a qualified applicant can get their certification fee reimbursed, and may be eligible for additional incentives up to triple that fee. Funds will be offered on a first-come-first-served basis for eligible applicants.

The City of Columbus Green Columbus Fund program was recently expanded to include additional LEED rating systems under which it will accept applications. Originally accepting only LEED-NC (for new construction and major renovations), the program now accepts LEED-NC, CS (core and shell), CI (commercial Interior), EB:O&M (existing buildings: operations & maintenance).

The basic elements of the program and where to go for details and applications are available online at [www.GetGreenColumbus.org](http://www.GetGreenColumbus.org).